

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

MEDICINE

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

W. S. THAYER, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE,
MARYLAND,

AND

ROGER S. MORRIS, M.D.,

CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, CLIFTON SPRINGS
SANATORIUM AND HOSPITAL, CLIFTON SPRINGS, NEW YORK.

An Experimental Study of the Effect of "Roentgenized" Serum on the Blood.—J. GLAUBERMANN (*Munch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1914, Ixi, 1867) has repeated some of the experiments of S. Wermel on the effect of blood serum exposed to Roentgen-rays (x -serum) when injected into the body. His experiments have been carried out on rabbits. He finds that the subcutaneous injection of x -serum produces characteristic changes in the blood. After a prompt leukocytosis of short duration, there is a temporary leukopenia, which reaches its maximum in one and one-half to two hours, and then gradually disappears in the course of the following twenty-four hours. There is also observed a rather marked lymphopenia, which gradually increases and is maximal at twenty-four hours. Comparison of the findings after injection of x -serum with those obtained by other observers after direct exposure of the organism to the rays shows a striking similarity. In each instance leukopenia and lymphopenia are found; the only difference seems to be that the reaction is more prompt after injection of x -serum and its duration shorter. With x -serum one has to deal with two antagonists, i. e., the serum which causes a leukocytosis, and the Roentgen energy which works in the opposite manner.

The Influence of Menstruation on the Concentration of Glucose in the Blood.—H. KAHLER (*Wiener klin. Wchnschr.*, 1914, xxvii, 417) has found a change in the concentration of glucose in the blood of patients during the menstrual period which, if substantiated by the work of others, must be borne in mind in studies of the blood sugar in females. In his determinations the author employed Bang's micro-method. He

found in the majority of the twenty-two patients examined (no normal individuals) that there was a well-defined rise in blood sugar which occurred just before or during the menstrual period, usually followed by a drop, with the cessation of the bleeding, to the normal or to values which, for the given individual, may be looked upon as subnormal. In more than half the cases the variation between the highest and lowest readings amounted to 0.03 per cent. The author believes, therefore, that hyperglycemia is probably a physiological feature of menstruation in most women. Menstruation is so complex physiologically that the cause of the hyperglycemia is not at all clear. That it may be related to change in hepatic function the author thinks is probable, the more so since Chvostek has found evidence of hyperemia of the liver during the menstrual period.

Studies with the Abderhalden Test in Helminthiasis.—E. MANOILLOFF (*Wiener klin. Wchnschr.*, 1914, xxvii, 269) has tried the Abderhalden test in patients infected with intestinal parasites to determine whether enzymes specific for the parasites are present in the blood sera of the hosts. Substrata were prepared from *Tenia solium* and from *Ascaris lumbricoides*. The technique as described by Abderhalden was rigidly adhered to. In all, eighteen patients infected with *Tenia solium* and four with *Ascaris lumbricoides* were examined. The reaction was marked and was specific in each case.

Studies with the Phenolsulphonephthalein Test.—O. HESS (*Münch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1914, lxi, 1835; 1874) gives the results of a study of the phthalein test in 300 cases of renal disease. The test he has found eminently satisfactory. It exceeds all previously described tests in simplicity and accuracy. The fact that it may be employed without previous preparation is a great advantage to the practitioner. He has found the test especially helpful in diagnosing chronic interstitial nephritis in cases where the clinical picture of the disease was not fully developed. He also finds that the severity of the disease it usually closely parallel to the phthalein elimination, and that the test is, therefore, of great value in prognosis. In acute nephritis, the author says, one must be cautious in drawing conclusions from the results of the test; however, he has found in the prognostically unfavorable cases that there is usually a marked decrease in the output of the dye. In unilateral renal disease the author's experience again coincides with that of the great majority of workers in establishing the value of the test. The author gives a comprehensive review of the literature. Many, if not all of the discordant results he attributes to errors in technique, mistakes in the collection of the specimens for examination, or to the use of unreliable preparations of the dye.

Studies on the Granular Form of the Tuberculous Virus.—S. WEINER (*Münch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1914, lxi, 1838) has made parallel examinations of 1050 specimens of tuberculous sputa for the acid-fast (Ziehl) organisms and for the granular bacilli first described by Much. The study extended over a period of a year and involved seventy-five patients who were under constant observation. In a large percentage of the tuberculous patients the granular virus was alone discovered. Acid-fast bacilli were not demonstrable, even with antiformin. Animal inocula-